AKIRA

24™

KATSUHIRO OTOMO

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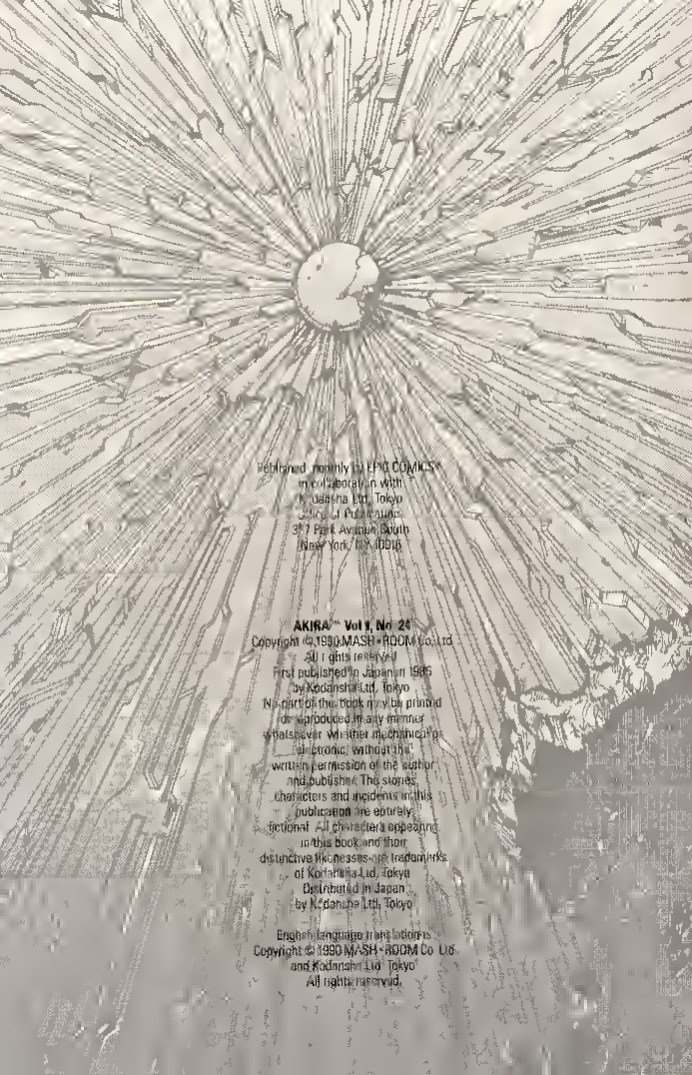

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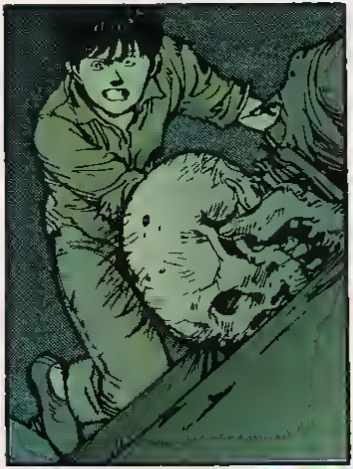


WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE

Twenty-thirty. The world hovers on the brink of World War IV. In a section of **Neo-Tokyo** known as the "old city"—where, thirty-eight years before the destruction of World War III began—a band of teenaged delinquents led by **Kaneda** encounter **Number 26**—a child named **Takashi** who uses extraordinary telekinetic abilities to injure **Tetsuo**, one of Kaneda's close friends.

As a result **Kaneda** and **Tetsuo** become entangled in a power struggle between a mysterious military and scientific organization led by the **Colonel** and an underground resistance group bent on putting a stop to the Colonel's activities. Members of the resistance include **Kay**, **Ryu**, and a formidable woman named **Chiyoko**. Among their superiors is the blind **Lady Miyako**—a powerful religious leader with strong precognitive gifts.

The **Colonel** has a number of psychic children under his control. **Takashi**, **Kiyoko**, and **Masaru** are identified by numbers marked on their hands. **Lady Miyako** was, at one time, **Number 19**. **Number 28** is **Akira**, so powerful that since the war he has been suspended in cryogenic sleep.

The Colonel's staff conducts experiments which awaken tremendous telepathic potential in **Tetsuo**, who is redubbed **Number 41**. **Tetsuo** is able to shrug off the most serious injuries. He goes on a killing spree, even attacking **Kaneda**. Followed by **Kay** and **Kaneda**, **Tetsuo** seeks out **Akira**, whose powers he fears may rival his own. In hibernation, Akira's power responds to Tetsuo's psychic energy. When **Tetsuo** reaches Akira's resting place, the

Kaneda | The Colonel | Lady Miyako | Masaru

cryogenic chamber cracks from within **Akira** emerges dazed and docile following his long sleep

The **Colonel** summons the powerful SOL military satellite and orders that its laser cannon be fired at **Tetsuo** and **Akira** The two are separated by the blasts **Akira** is saved by **Kay** and **Kaneda** but the laser strikes Tetuso's left arm Afterward **Neo-Tokyo** is placed in a state of military emergency. with "caretaker robots" patrolling the street and keeping order

Akira and the resistance fighters are cornered by the Colonels troops but all seems well when **Takashi** fondly greets **Akira** Then **Nezu** a former resistance leader who has betrayed his own side arrives He tries to kill **Akira** but kills **Takashi** instead

The trauma of Takashi's death galvanizes **Akira** He fully awakens and unleashes a light blast powerful enough to devastate the entire city **Masaru** and **Kiyoko** sweep most of the people in the area upward. **Kaneda** is last seen vanishing toward the sky Afterwards **Lady Miyako** opens her temple and offers shelter and comfort to those in need gathering large groups of followers in the East

Neo-Tokyo is completely cut off from the outside world In the western part of the city the **Graat Tokyo Empira** is formed—a monarchy with **Akira** as the figurehead and **Tetsuo** as his prime minister Together the pair use their powers healing the sick wielding control of the faithful and organizing their subjects into fighting units that destroy caretaker robots and conquer military and medical relief parties sent from the outside

Tetsuo Kai Tetsuo's Aide Lt Yamada

world. The **Empire** is eventually infiltrated by teams of spies from the outside.

Masaru and **Kiyoko** are sick with withdrawal from the drug which augments and channels mental powers, and when **Kiyoko**, whose powers are precognitive, tell **Kay** to find **Number 19**, **Lady Miyako** asks that **Kay** bring other psychics to her when they are well.

Tetsuos men kill most of the spies from the outside, but their leader, **Lt. Yamada**, escapes when **Ryu** leads him into the safety of an underground shelter. **Yamada** refuses to tell **Ryu** who has sent him. He does, however, reveal that Russia has conquered part of Japan, and that the Americans fear of **Akira** makes them reluctant to get involved.

Tetsuo forces an orgy of sex and drugs on several young girls, only one of whom—**Kaori**—survives. Afterwards **Tetsuo** looks into Akira's mind. He emerges a terrified wreck. When he recovers, he decides that **Lady Miyako** may be able to explain matters to him. Taking a dose of power enhancing medication, **Tetsuo** teleports to the temple of the religious leader. **Lady Miyoko** warns Tetsuo that he alone can control Akiras near inconceivable powers, but that he must first overcome his dependency on drugs. Disgusted and perplexed, **Tetsuo** returns to his stronghold. There he neglects his duties of state, concentrating instead on trying to kick the habit.

Kay and **Chiyoko** try to move **Masaru** and **Kiyoko** to Lady Miyako's temple, but are attacked by Tetsuos followers, who escape with **Kiyoko**. **Chiyoko** rescues the girl, but is badly wounded. The two are brought to safety by the **Colonel**, who has been living in isolation. **Chiyoko**, delirious, tells the **Colonel** to take **Kiyoko** to the temple, where he'll also find **Masaru**. Meanwhile, **Kay** safely conveys **Masaru** to the temple.

Ryu and **Lt. Yamada** watch the **Empire** from hiding. When Tetsuo's dapper lieutenant—disgusted by Tetsuo's lack of interest in the way **Lady Miyako** has thwarted their schemes—leads most of the Empire's men out as an army, **Ryu** and **Yamada** move in. They are startled by an encounter with **Tetsuo**, his power surging erratically from withdrawal. **Ryu** is even more startled when **Tetsuo** blurts out what his telepathy has shown him—that **Yamada** has come to assassinate **Akira**.

Tetsuos lieutenant leads his

Kiyoko | Kaori | Ryu | Kay

army to Lady Miyako's temple and they slaughter all in their path—monks penitants and helpless refugees alike They are however thwarted by the power of Lady Miyako's psychically gifted monks and defeated when **Kay** captures their leader **Lady Miyako** refuses to permit the execution of her enemies Tetsuo's men depart alive bitterly swearing revenge They return an hour later hungry for blood and victory

Kay along with **Kai** one of the surviving members of Kaneda's old gang—urges **Lady Miyako** to flee before it's too late The religious leader refuses so the three board Lady Miyako's private elevator with **Masaru** and depart for the temple's tower to make a last stand

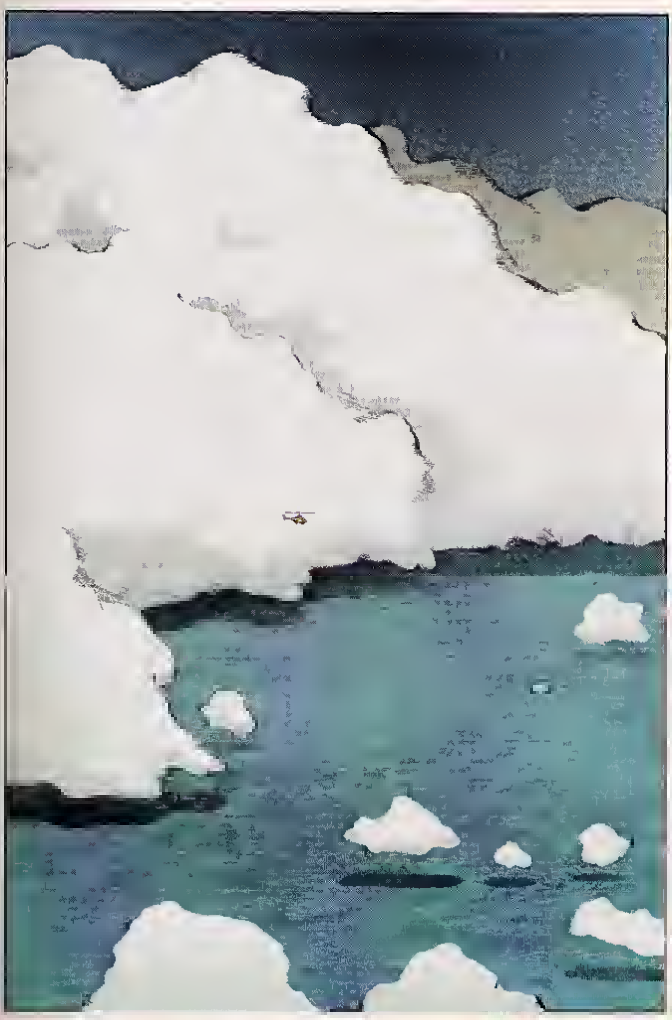
The **Colonel** arrives outside the temple with **Kiyoko** He is wounded by some of the Empires men but is rescued by a soldier formerly under his command The **Colonel** reveals his possession of a remote control laser gun that enables him to fire blasts from the SOL military satellite

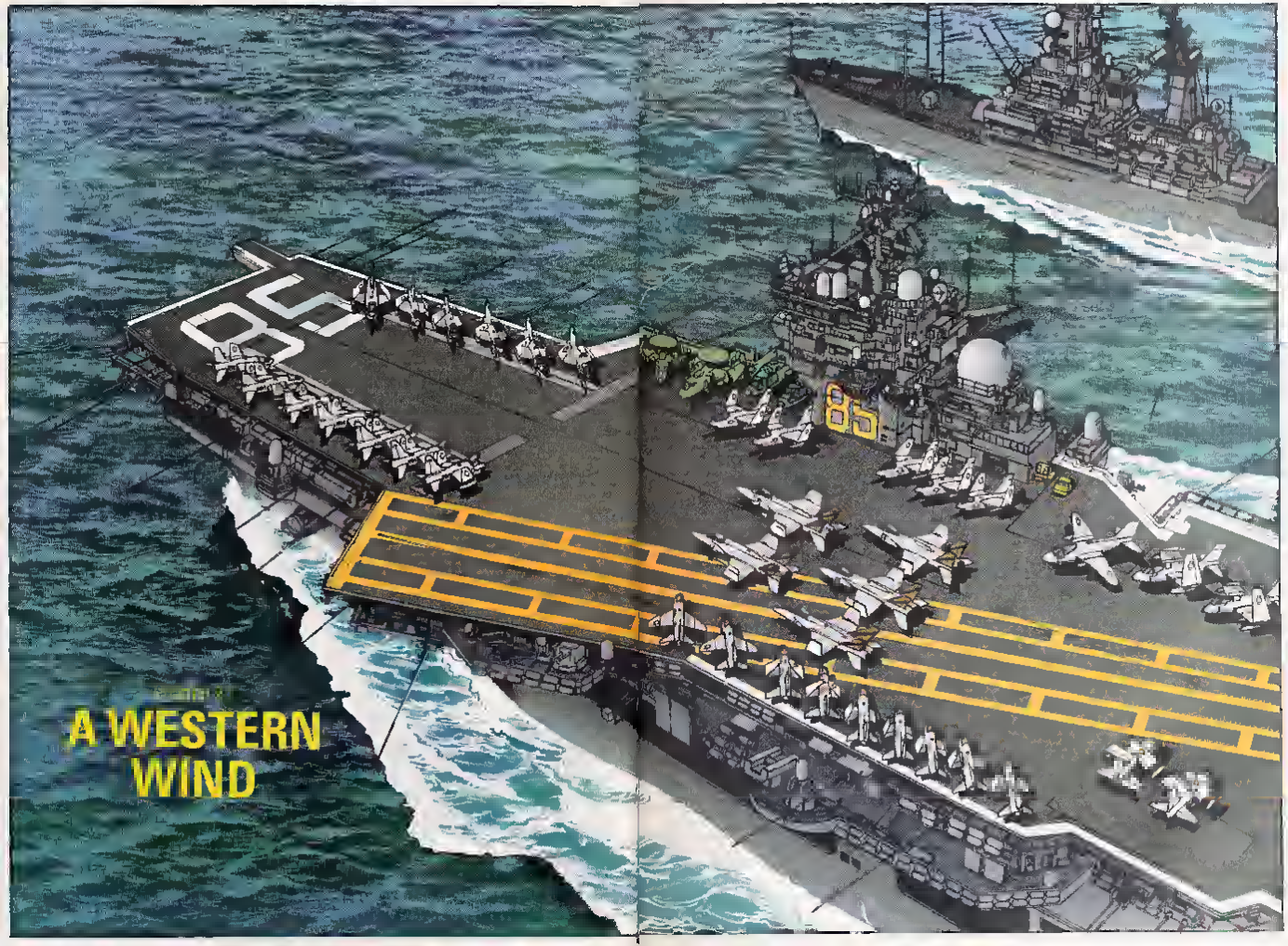
Lady Miyako's elevator reaches the tower The doors open to reveal **Tetsuo** sweating delirious and undergoing severe physical trauma from drug withdrawal

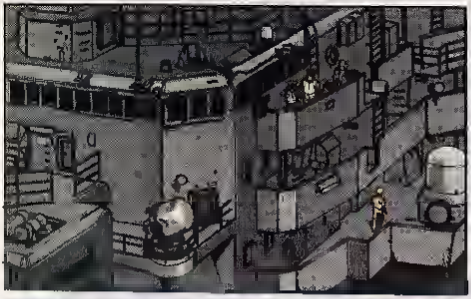
Tetsuo's physical symptoms culminate in an explosive leap skyward that unleashes even further devastation on **Neo-Tokyo** During the mayhem **Kaneda** reappears as if from nowhere

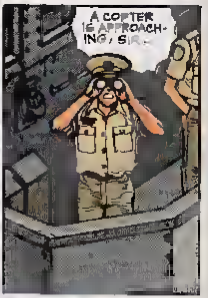
Tetsuo hallucinates wildly experiencing recollections of his parents and his early childhood He is humbled by a vision of the double helix spiral that **Akira** constantly creates when he plays Only **Kaori** is there to see **Tetsuo** return to the seat of the **Great Tokyo Empire** and bow down to his young lord

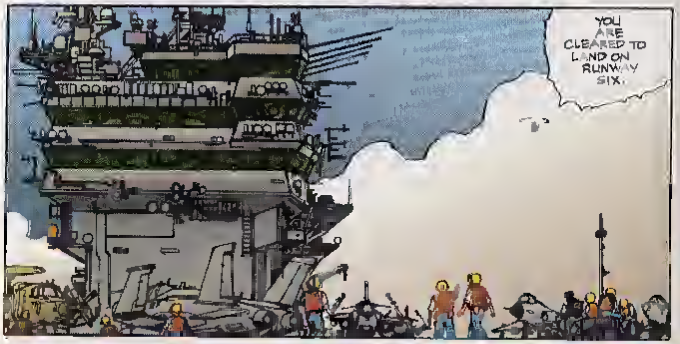
Akira **Chiyoko** **Joker** **Seer**

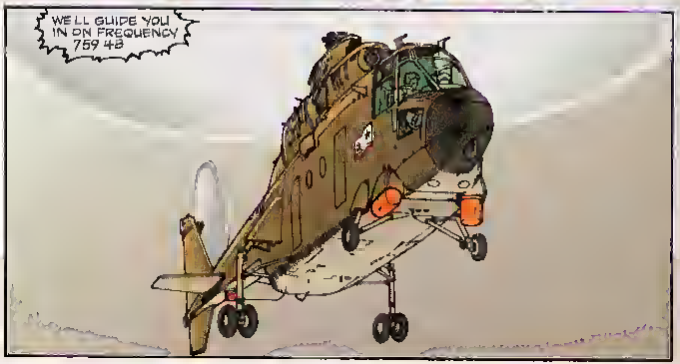


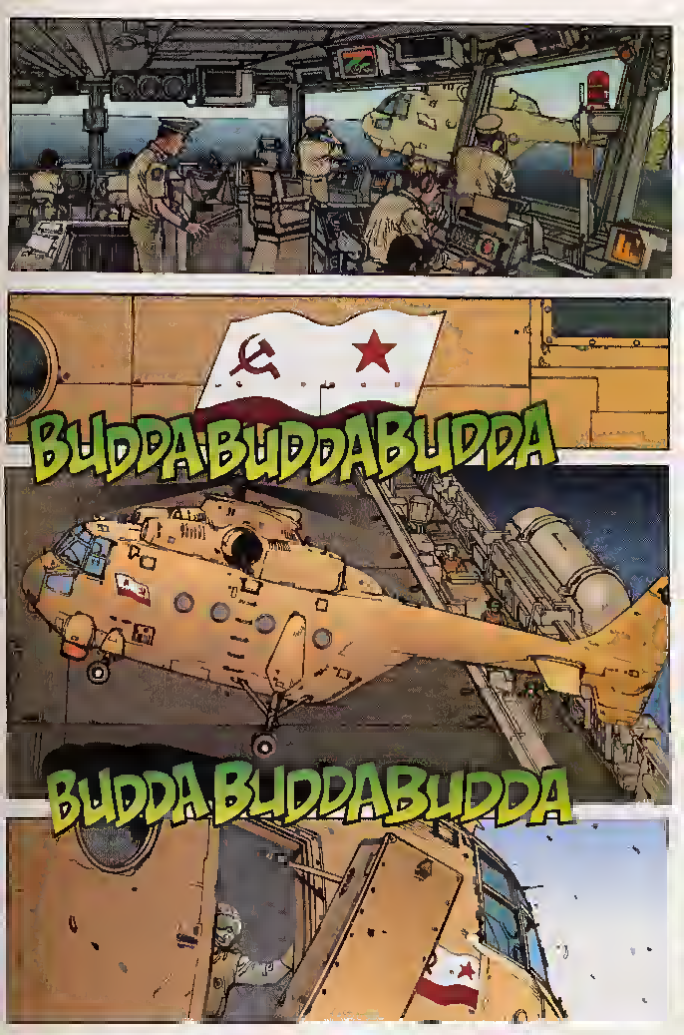

A WESTERN
WIND

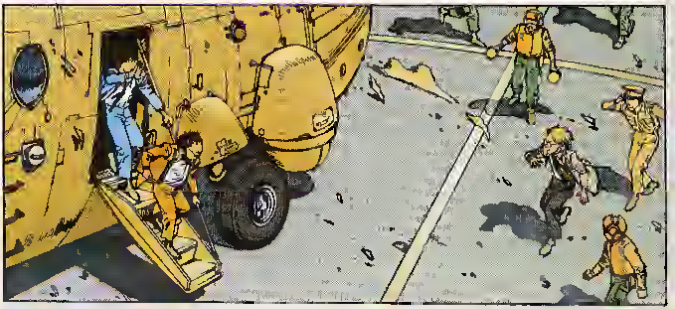



A COPTER IS APPROACHING, SIR.

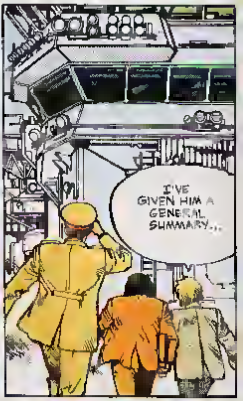

YOU ARE CLEARED TO LAND ON RUNWAY SIX.

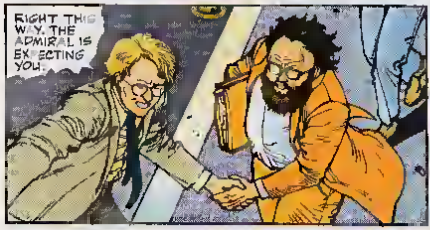

WE'LL GUIDE YOU IN ON FREQUENCY 759.48


BUDDABUDDABUDDA
BUDDABUDDABUDDA



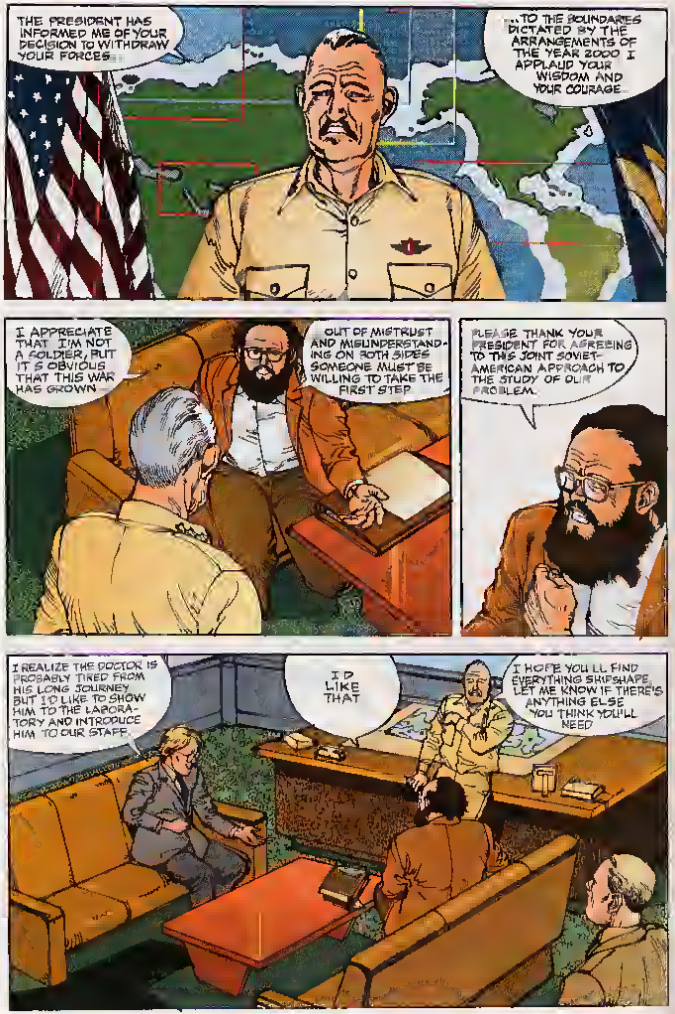
WELCOME ABOARD, DOCTOR.


I'VE GIVEN HIM A GENERAL SUMMARY...


RIGHT THIS WAY. THE ADMIRAL IS EXPECTING YOU.

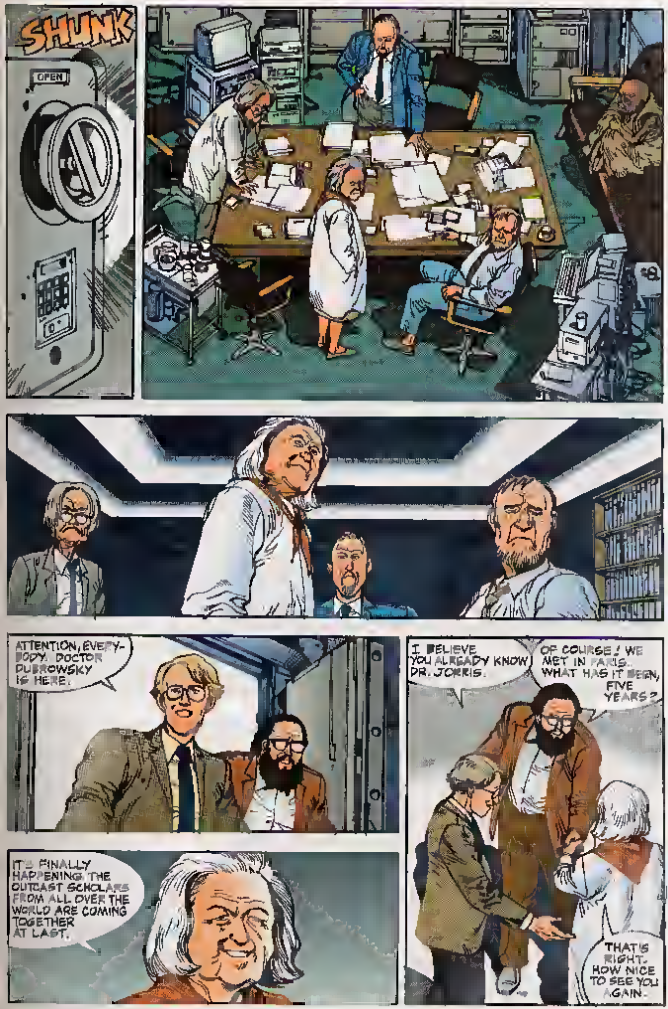
BUT THIS GOES FAR BEYOND A LAYMAN'S UNDERSTANDING, SO HE'S SOMEWHAT CONFUSED
HE'S FAR FROM COMPLETE COMPREHENSION OF THE SITUATION
BUT HE'S VERY INTERESTED

IMPERFECT EXPLANATIONS WILL ONLY INCREASE THE MAN'S BEWILDERMENT.
IF WE MISHANDLE THINGS, WE RUN THE RISK OF BEING CASTIGATED AS TRAITORS...OR EVEN MADMEN.
I KNOW NOW HOW GALILEO MUST HAVE FELT.
YOU MAKE US SOUND GUILTY. IF ONLY WE HADN'T WASTED SO MUCH TIME.
IF THE MILITARY HAD LISTENED TO US IN THE FIRST PLACE, THINGS WOULD NEVER HAVE COME TO THIS PASS.
I FEEL THE SAME WAY.
KEEP OUT
THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT YOU'RE HERE WHILE THERE'S STILL TIME...
BEFORE THE BUTTON HAS BEEN PUSHED.


THE PRESIDENT HAS INFORMED ME OF YOUR DECISION TO WITHDRAW YOUR FORCES...
...TO THE BOUNDARIES DICTATED BY THE ARRANGEMENTS OF THE YEAR 2000 I APPLAUD YOUR WISDOM AND YOUR COURAGE.
I APPRECIATE THAT I'M NOT A FOOLISH, BUT IT'S OBVIOUS THAT THIS WAR HAS GROWN...
OUT OF MISTRUST AND MISUNDERSTANDING ON BOTH SIDES SOMEONE MUST BE WILLING TO TAKE THE FIRST STEP.
PLEASE THANK YOUR PRESIDENT FOR AGREEING TO THIS JOINT SOVIET-AMERICAN APPROACH TO THE STUDY OF OUR PROBLEM.
I REALIZE THE DOCTOR IS PROBABLY TIRED FROM HIS LONG JOURNEY BUT I'D LIKE TO SHOW HIM TO THE LABORATORY AND INTRODUCE HIM TO OUR STAFF.
I'D LIKE THAT
I HOPE YOU'LL FIND EVERYTHING SHIPSHAPE. LET ME KNOW IF THERE'S ANYTHING ELSE YOU THINK YOU'LL NEED.

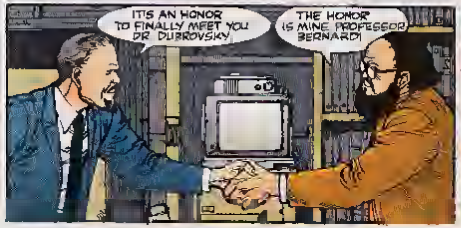
BEEP BEEP
AN ELEVATOR..?
SPACE IS LIMITED, BUT OUR FACILITIES ARE FIRST-RATE.
BY THE WAY, CERTAIN PARTS OF THE SHIP ARE POSTED AS BEING OFF-LIMITS. I'M AFRAID THAT APPLIES TO YOU.
OF COURSE.
GOOD.

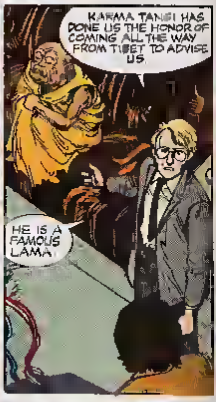
HERE WE ARE
SHDOM
GASP!
DOCTOR!
THIS WAY.
KEEP OUT
KEEP OUT

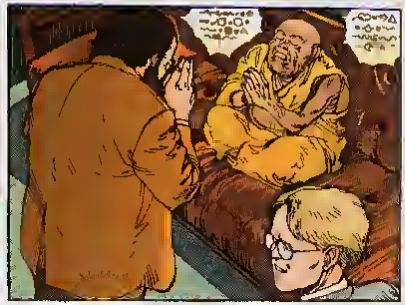

SHUNK
OPEN
ATTENTION, EVERYBODY. DOCTOR DUBROWSKY IS HERE.
I BELIEVE YOU ALREADY KNOW DR. JORRIS.
OF COURSE! WE MET IN PARIS. WHAT HAS IT BEEN, FIVE YEARS?
IT'S FINALLY HAPPENING. THE OUTCAST SCHOLARS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD ARE COMING TOGETHER AT LAST.
THAT IS RIGHT. HOW NICE TO SEE YOU AGAIN.

HOW DO YOU DO?
THIS IS DR. STANLEY SIMMONS.
IT'S A PLEASURE.

I'M GEORGE HOCK. NICE TO KNOW YOU.
I'VE HEARD OF YOU.


IT'S AN HONOR TO FINALLY MEET YOU DR. DURROVSKY
THE HONOR IS MINE, PROFESSOR BERNARD!


KARMA TANGI HAS DONE US THE HONOR OF COMING ALL THE WAY FROM TIBET TO ADVISE US.
HE IS A FAMOUS LAMA.


OMMM
OMMM

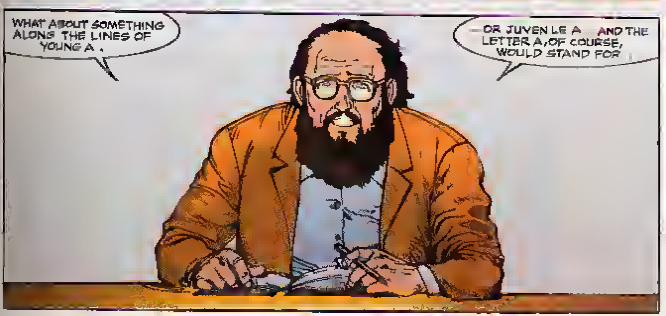
YOUR SEAT DOCTOR?
OF COURSE

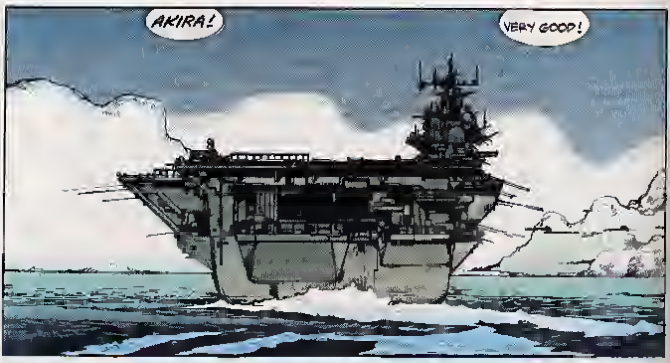
SHALL WE BEGIN?

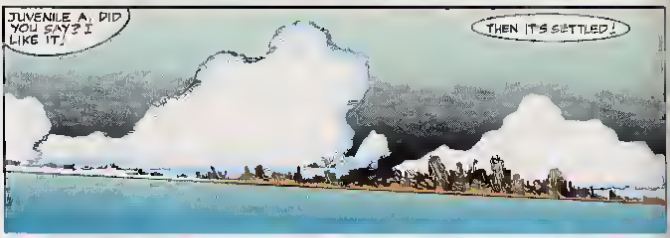
BEFORE WE EXAMINE THE NEW MATERIALS DR. DUBROVSKY HAS BROUGHT US, I SUGGEST WE MAKE SURE OUR OWN ANALYSIS IS COMPLETELY UP TO DATE.

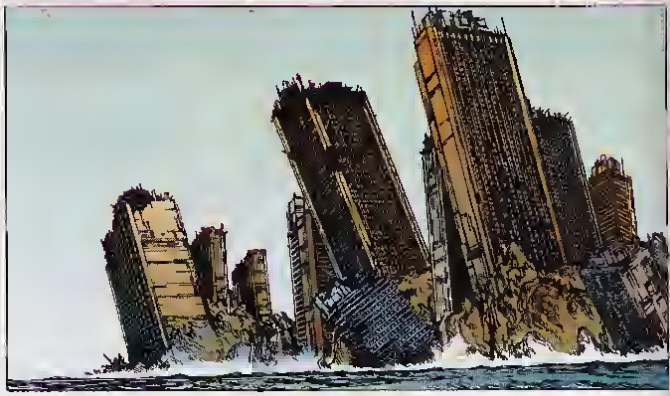
A GOOD IDEA...BUT FIRST, DON'T YOU THINK THIS PROJECT SHOULD HAVE A NAME?

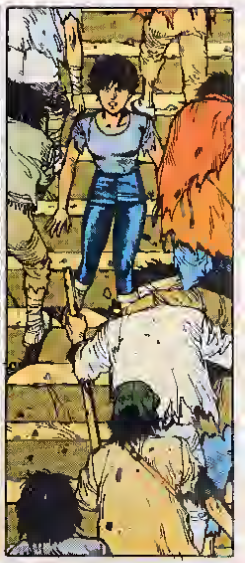
I CONCUR. PERHAPS DR. DUBROVSKY WOULD CARE TO...?
NIEM.

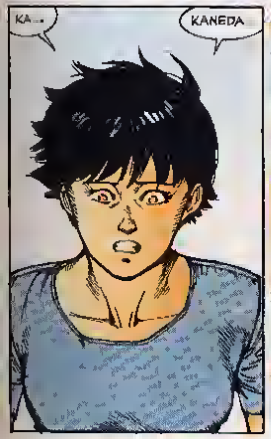

WHAT ABOUT SOMETHING ALONG THE LINES OF YOUNG A.
...OR JUVENILE A AND THE LETTER A, OF COURSE, WOULD STAND FOR


AKIRA!
VERY GOOD!


JUVENILE A, DID YOU SAY? I LIKE IT.
THEN IT'S SETTLED!






KA...
KANEDA

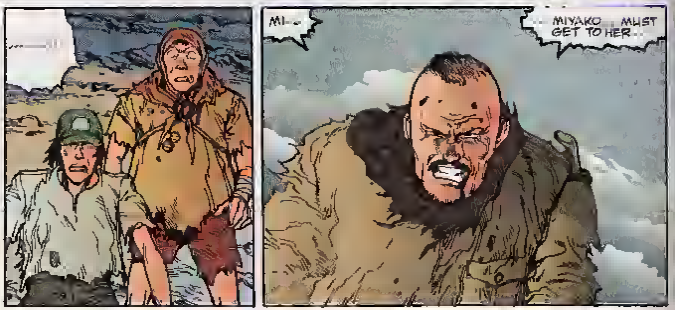
KAY

KAYYY!
KA--!

KANEDAAA!
HUNH?
HEY! WAIT A MINUTE, YOU--!
IT'S...REALLY YOU! YOU'RE ALIVE!
YOU ASS-HOLE!
I'VE BEEN SO WORRIED ABOUT YOU!
SOB-SOB!

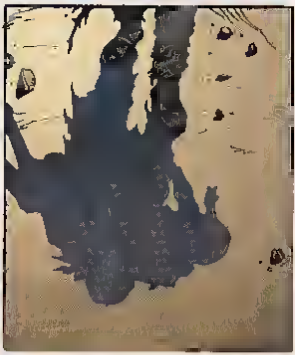
WHAT IN ?
HEY!
BHOOM
51

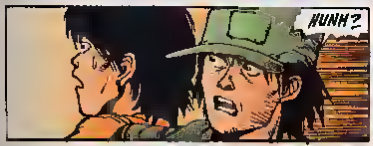
51

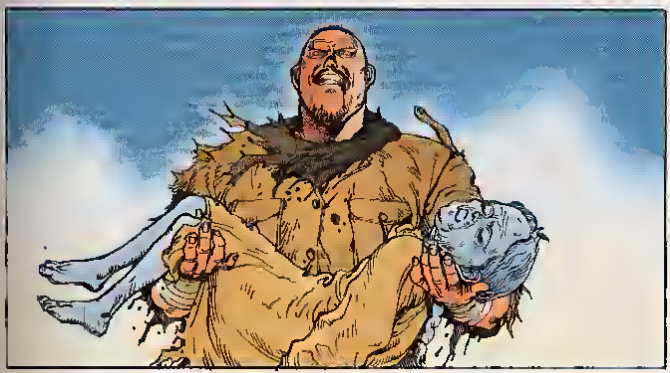

MI...
...MIYAKO MUST GET TO HER...

!

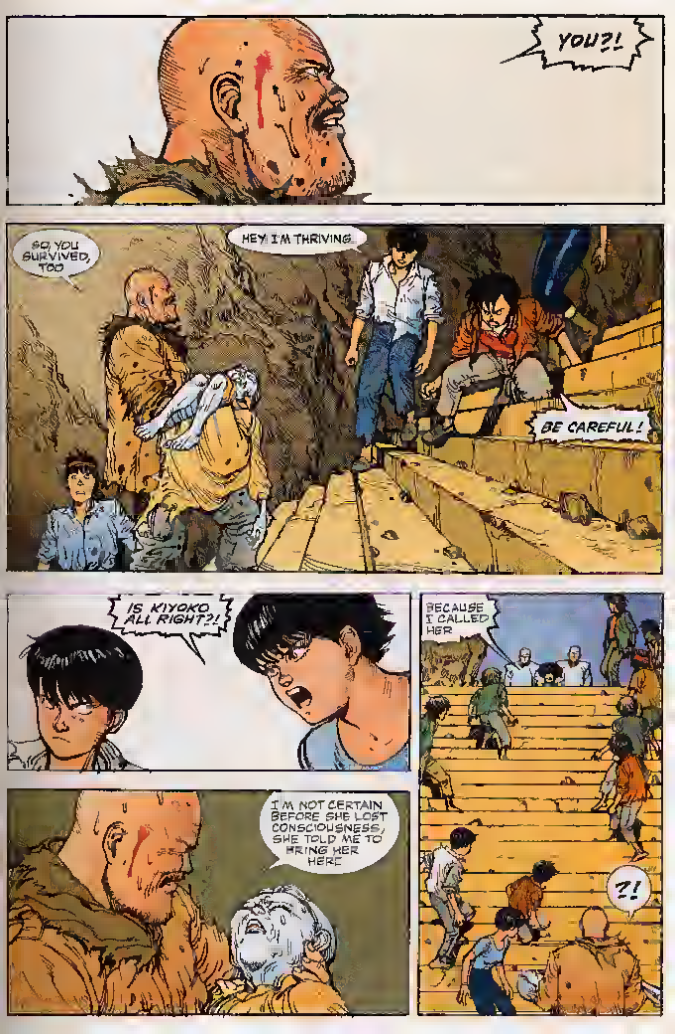
SHOVE
DON'T PUSH.



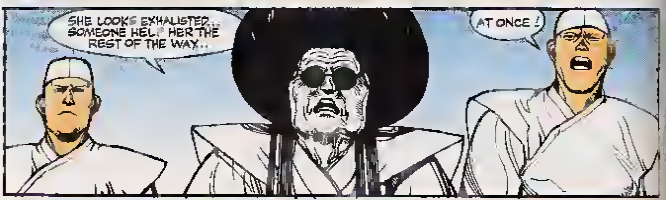

HUNH?



WHOA!
WOW!
QUIT SHOVING!
THAT'S A CAMERA-LIKE ROBOT!
WHAT'S IT WANT HERE?
I DON'T THINK IT'S ATTACKING US.
?HMF?
IT'S THE SKINHEAD!
HE'S STILL ALIVE!
KIYOKO!


YOU?!
SO, YOU SURVIVED, TOO
HEY! I'M THRIVING.
BE CAREFUL!
IS KIYOKO ALL RIGHT?!
I'M NOT CERTAIN. BEFORE SHE LOST CONSCIOUSNESS, SHE TOLD ME TO BRING HER HERE
BECAUSE I CALLED HER
?!

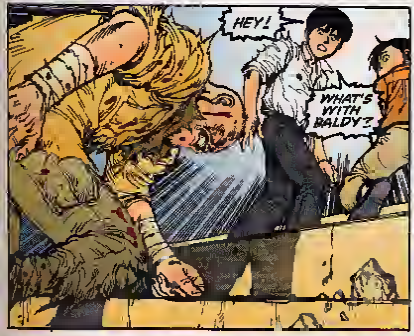
IT'S LADY MIYAKO! SHE'S HERE!
LADY MIYAKO!
WHAT'S UP?
IT'S LIKE A VISION!


SHE LOOKS EXHAUSTED... SOMEONE HELP HER THE REST OF THE WAY...
AT ONCE!

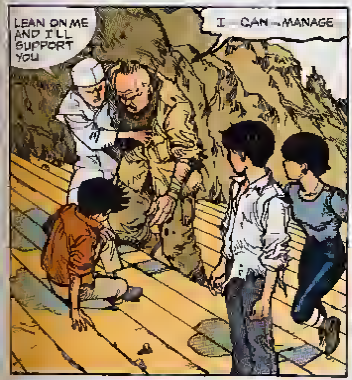
SO! MIYAKO...

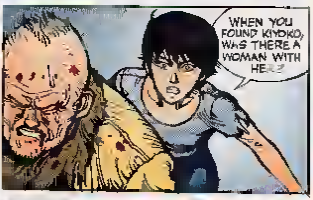
UHNGH...

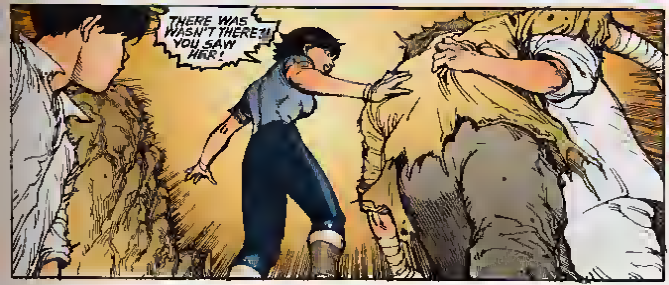
IS NUMBER 19


HEY!
WHAT'S WITH BALDY?

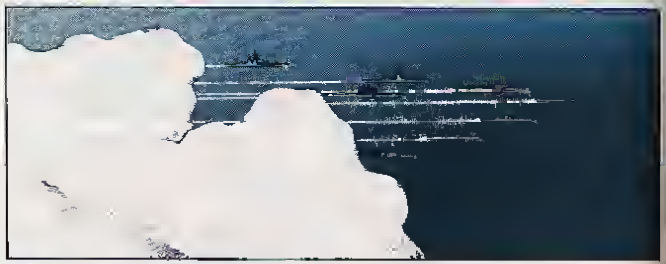
HE, TOO, IS GRAVELY HURT, AND MUST BE HELPED INSIDE.


LEAN ON ME AND I'LL SUPPORT YOU
I CAN MANAGE

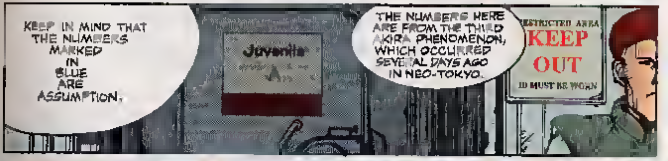

WHEN YOU FOUND KIYOKO, WAS THERE A WOMAN WITH HER?


THERE WAS, WASN'T THERE?! YOU SAW HER!

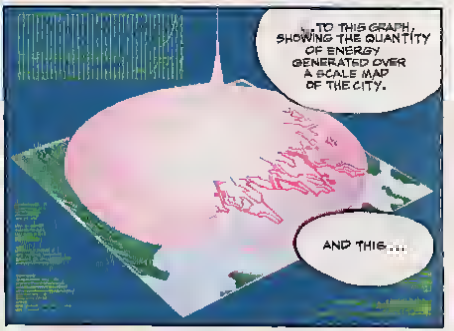
DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT'S GOING ON?
NO, I'E,

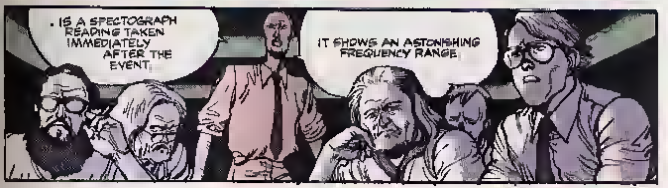


THIS INCLUDES ALL AVAILABLE DATA ABOUT THE RECENT COLLAPSE OF NEO-TOKYO, INCLUDING THE MOST RECENT MATERIALS, BROUGHT FROM THE U.S.S.R. BY DR. DURROVSKY.

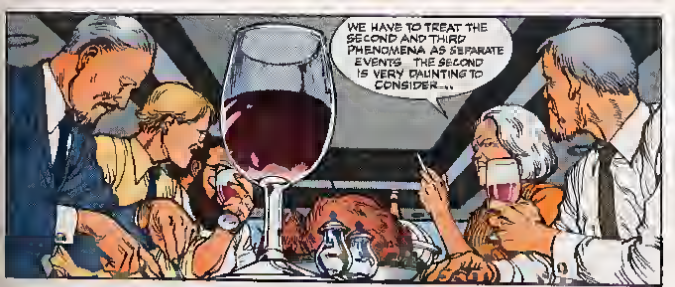

KEEP IN MIND THAT THE NUMBERS MARKED IN BLUE ARE ASSUMPTION.
Juvenile
THE NUMBERS HERE ARE FROM THE THIRD AKIRA PHENOMENON, WHICH OCCURRED SEVERAL DAYS AGO IN NEO-TOKYO.
RESTRICTED AREA
KEEP OUT
ID MUST BE WORN

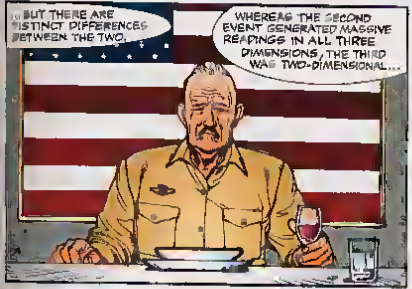
I RENDERED IT IN THREE DIMENSIONS TO FACILITATE COMPREHENSION. PLEASE DIRECT YOUR ATTENTION...

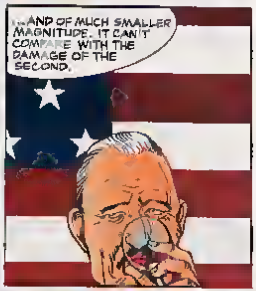

...TO THIS GRAPH, SHOWING THE QUANTITY OF ENERGY GENERATED OVER A SCALE MAP OF THE CITY.
AND THIS...


...IS A SPECTOGRAPH READING TAKEN IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE EVENT.
IT SHOWS AN ASTONISHING FREQUENCY RANGE.

THERE WERE GAMMA RAYS AT THE HEART OF THE DISTURBANCE, AS WELL AS EVIDENCE OF A RED SHIFT...
...WHICH IS CORROBORATED BY READINGS FROM OTHER SURVEY INSTALLATIONS VERIFIED AGAINST A TIME-PROCESS DIAGRAM.
WE ALSO HAVE CONFIRMATION OF RADIOACTIVE DISINTEGRATION, NUCLEAR FUSION, GRAVITY WAVE DETECTION, PROTON COLLAPSE... IN SHORT...
...ALL EVIDENCE INDICATES THE OCCURRENCE...
...OF A MINIATURE BIG BANG.
THAT IS UNQUESTIONABLY WHAT OCCURRED. WE'VE CONFIRMED THE PRESENCE OF UNKNOWN SUBSTANCES AND PHENOMENA AT THE SITE.
IT WILL TAKE US SOME TIME JUST TO COMPLETE ANALYSIS OF THE DATA
SO... WE'RE WITNESSES TO THE BIRTH OF A NEW UNIVERSE.

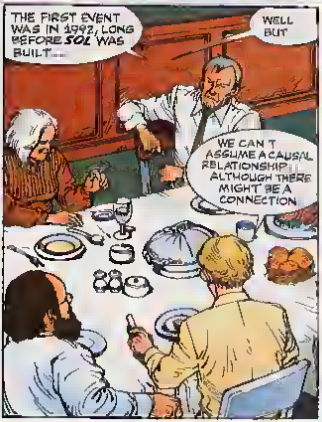

WE HAVE TO TREAT THE SECOND AND THIRD PHENOMENA AS SEPARATE EVENTS. THE SECOND IS VERY DAUNTING TO CONSIDER...


...BUT THERE ARE DISTINCT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO.
WHEREAS THE SECOND EVENT GENERATED MASSIVE READINGS IN ALL THREE DIMENSIONS, THE THIRD WAS TWO-DIMENSIONAL...


...AND OF MUCH SMALLER MAGNITUDE. IT CAN'T COMPARE WITH THE DAMAGE OF THE SECOND.

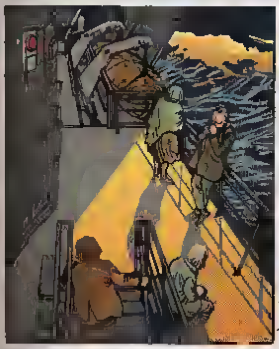
IT'S INTERESTING THAT THE THIRD EVENT OCCURRED IN THE CENTER OF THE SPOT AT WHICH SOL MILITARY SATELLITE SPONTANEOUSLY FIRED SHORTLY THEREAFTER

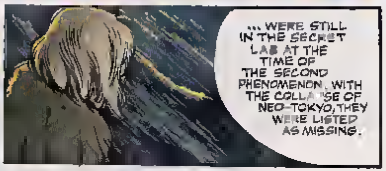
THEY USED SOL ONCE BEFORE, A FEW MONTHS BEFORE THE SECOND PHENOMENON VERY NEAR WHERE THEY'D SEQUESTERED AKIRA


THE FIRST EVENT WAS IN 1992, LONG BEFORE SOL WAS BUILT...
WELL BUT
WE CAN'T ASSUME A CAUSAL RELATIONSHIP... ALTHOUGH THERE MIGHT BE A CONNECTION

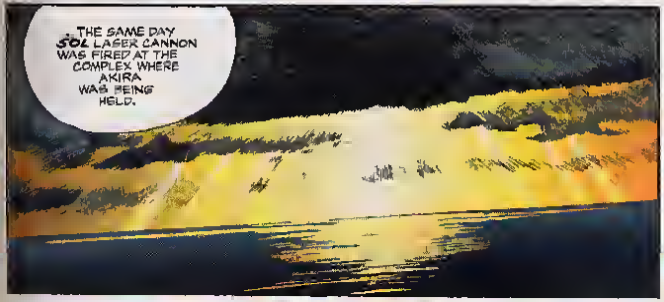
I AGREE THERE WAS A LAPSE OF SEVERAL MINUTES BETWEEN THE FIRING AND THE OCCURRENCE OF THE THIRD PHENOMENON.
BY THE WAY, ADMIRAL, WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF SOL 3?
ACCESS FROM THE GROUND STATION TO THE SATELLITE HAS BEEN CUT. IT WILL TAKE SOME TIME TO BREAK THE ENTRY CODE, BUT DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
I THINK WE'RE IN GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT THE SOURCE OF THE THIRD PHENOMENON WASN'T AKIRA.
JORRIS, ARE YOU SUGGESTING ANOTHER SOURCE...?
BUT ALL INDICATIONS WERE THAT THE REST OF THE CHILDREN IN THE TWENTIES WERE HARMLESS.
RECORDS INDICATE THE NUMBERS WERE REGISTERED ALL THE WAY UP TO 41.

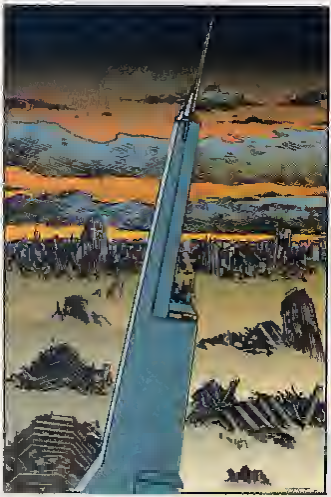
NUMBERS 32, 35, 36, 37 38 AND 40 ALL DIED FROM BRAIN INJURIES INCURRED DURING THEIR TREATMENTS. NUMBERS 34, 35 AND 39...

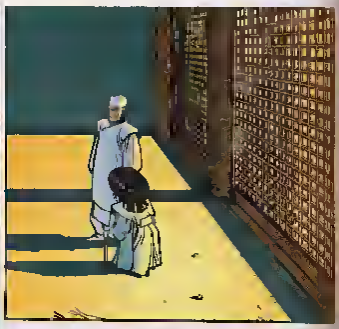


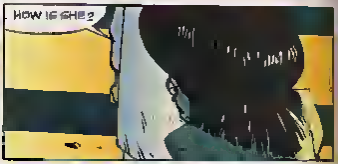

...WERE STILL IN THE SECRET LAB AT THE TIME OF THE SECOND PHENOMENON. WITH THE COLLAPSE OF NEO-TOKYO, THEY WERE LISTED AS MISSING.

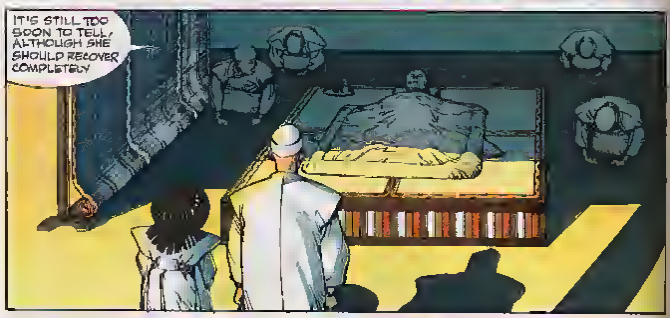
NUMBER 41 IS REPORTED TO HAVE RUN AWAY ON APRIL 16, 2030...

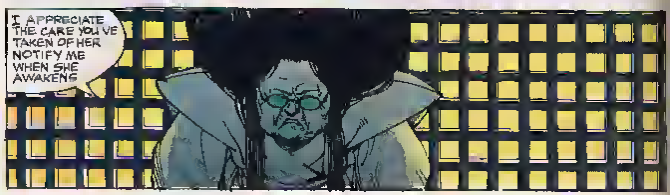

...THE SAME DAY SOL LASER CANNON WAS FIRED AT THE COMPLEX WHERE AKIRA WAS BEING HELD.






HOW IS SHE?

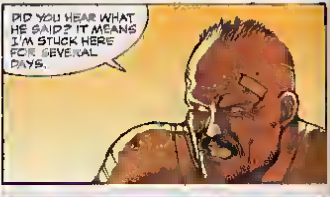

IT'S STILL TOO SOON TO TELL, ALTHOUGH SHE SHOULD RECOVER COMPLETELY


I APPRECIATE THE CARE YOU'VE TAKEN OF HER NOTIFY ME WHEN SHE AWAKENS

WE MUST WAIT UNTIL NUMBER 25 HAS RECOVERED
AFTER THAT EVERYTHING RESTS WITH NUMBER 41
IT COMES DOWN TO A QUESTION OF JUDGMENT AND PERCEPTION.
SKFF
MY LADY... IS ANYTHING WRONG?
I'M TREMBLING
I SIGHE
I'M AFRAID

PLEASE ... REST HERE.

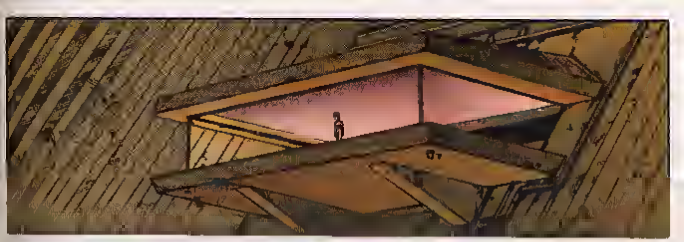
IT WILL BE SEVERAL DAYS BEFORE YOUR WOUND IS CLOSED UNTIL THEN YOU MUSTN'T TAX YOUR SELF
.....


DID YOU HEAR WHAT HE SAID? IT MEANS I'M STUCK HERE FOR SEVERAL DAYS.

I WOULDN'T KNOW

WHAT MATTERS IS CHIYOKO'S ALIVE AND YOU REFUSE TO TELL ME WHERE YOU'VE SEEN HER
THAT'S RIGHT-

THEN YOU'RE IN FOR A LOOO ONG FIGHT



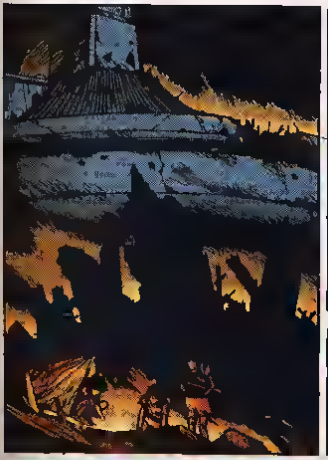
IF CHIYOKO IS STILL ALIVE...
...I KNOW SHE'LL TRY TO CONTACT ME, SOMEHOW.

UNLESS SOMETHING HAPPENED TO HER... SAY, IF SHE WERE HURT...
WELL...
IS IT CONNECTED TO THE FIRING OF THAT SATELLITE?
?

I'M RIGHT, AREN'T I?
YOU ARE THE ONE WHO FIRED THE SPACE LASER.
!
IT'S OKAY. THERE'S NO ONE AROUND WHO CAN HEAR US.
AND I'M NOT THAT INTERESTED EITHER.
I'M JUST WORRIED ABOUT CHIYOKO.
.....

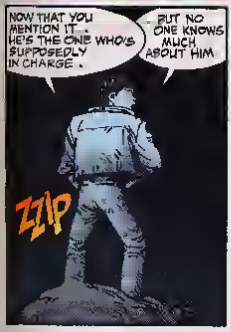
YOU'RE CALLED KAY, AREN'T YOU?
THAT'S RIGHT, COLONEL.
WHAT KEEPS YOU IN NEO-TOKYO?
IN MY CASE...
...IT'S DEDICATION TO DUTY. I HAVE A JOB TO FINISH.
LOYALTY TO FRIENDS... ONE OF WHOM MIGHT BE DYING.
AND I NEED SOL TO DO IT!

SO!...?
THE SPACE LASER-
YOU PLAN TO USE IT TO--!
I ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE SEED WHICH I PLANTED.
BEFORE HE GROWS INTO ANOTHER AKIRA
YOU MEAN TETSUO!
I LEAVE BEFORE DAWN IF YOU WANT TO COME WITH ME! BE WAITING AT THE FRONT GATE



...THEN THEY SET UP THE GREAT TOKYO EMPIRE.
HE STRUTS AROUND LIKE SOME KIND OF KING.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE KID--AKIRA?


NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT... HE'S THE ONE WHO'S SUPPOSEDLY IN CHARGE.
BUT NO ONE KNOWS MUCH ABOUT HIM.
ZIP

I THINK HE'S JUST A FIGUREHEAD.
IT'S KIND OF LIKE A REGENCY ...THEY CALL THE KID THEIR EMPEROR...

...BUT...
...TETSUO'S THE GUY WHO GIVES THE ORDERS

NOT DEAD YET, HUNH, TETSUO?
AND FROM THE SOUND OF THINGS, YOU'RE GETTING TO BE A REAL BIG SHOT.

NOW THAT YOU'RE BACK, WE CAN SETTLE THAT SCORE.
AH... BY THE WAY...
YOU WOULDN'T HAVE ANY CLOTHES I COULD BORROW, WOULD YOU?
THAT'S RIGHT! I FORGOT!
I STILL HAVEN'T INTRODUCED YOU TO THE REST OF THE GANG.
WHAT GANG?
YOU EXPECT ME TO MAKE A GOOD FIRST IMPRESSION DRESSED LIKE THIS?
COME ON... YOU CAN GET ANYTHING YOU WANT.
THERE'S SOMEONE YOU'VE GOTTA MEET
OW!
WHO IS HE?
YOU'LL SEE!

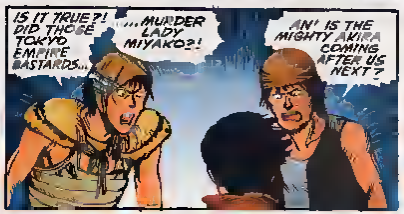
KANEDA!
TAP
Shuf
KANEDAAAA!

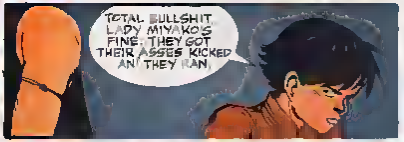
HEY! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
AWAY FROM THE TEMPLE. FOLLOW ME.
WHO IS THIS MIYAKO CHARACTER, ANYWAY?
FOUNDER OF HER OWN CHURCH ..LIVING GODDESS
SEMI SAINT WHO DOES THE LADY BOUNTIFUL THING FOR THE SICK AND THE NEEDY.
!
BOTTOM LINE, THIS PLACE IS JUST LIKE SOME KIND OF MODERN MECCA PEOPLE GO THROUGH HELL TO COME HERE I JUST DON'T GET IT!

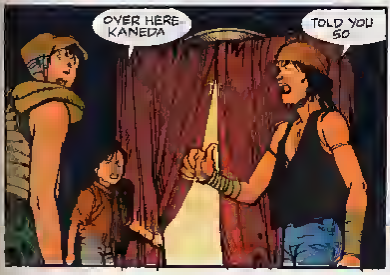
NOT EVERYONE COMES EMPTY-HANDED PEOPLE BRING FOOD, MEDICINE — SOME OF EM GO INTO BUSINESS
PEOPLE WANTING TO TRADE NEED VALUABLES LOT OF 'EM BECOME SCAVENGERS
THERE'S ENOUGH WORTH RIPPING OFF WE'VE EVEN GOT BANDS OF THIEVES ... A WHOLE BLACK MARKET COMMUNITY, BUILT AROUND THE SHRINE
OH, I GET IT!
THAT'S WHERE I CAN BUY SOME CLOTHES!
ONLY... I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING WORTH BARTERING.
BE REAL. WHERE RE WE GONNA FIND AN OPEN STORE THIS TIME OF NIGHT?
YOU MEAN,
WE RE GOING TO THE THIEVES' QUARTER?

WHO
NOW I SEE.
HEY! I'M BACK! IS HE AROUND?!
YEAH, INSIDE WHO'S THAT WITH YOU?
AN OLD FRIEND YESTERDAY HE FELL OUT OF THE SKY.
HOW DO Y'DO? PLEASED T'MEET YOU.
THIS WAY.
WOW!
HOTEL

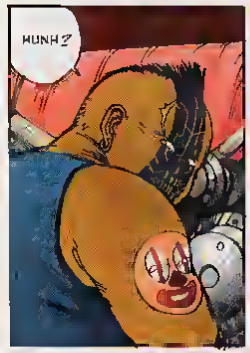
NOT DEAD YET, HUNH, KAI?
YO!


IS IT TRUE?! DID THOSE TOKYO EMPIRE BASTARDS...
...MURDER LADY MIYAKO?!
AN' IS THE MIGHTY AKIRA COMING AFTER US NEXT?


TOTAL BULLSHIT. LADY MIYAKO'S FINE. THEY GOT THEIR ASSES KICKED AN' THEY RAN.

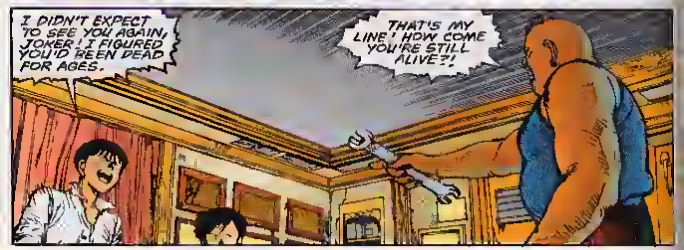

OVER HERE, KANEDA
TOLD YOU SO

MEET MY PAL


HUNH?

JO...
-JO...
-JO...
DON'T BITE YOUR TONGUE.

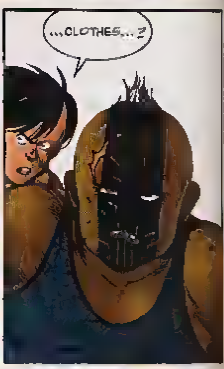
KANEDA...?


I DIDN'T EXPECT TO SEE YOU AGAIN, JOKER! I FIGURED YOU'D BEEN DEAD FOR AGES.
THAT'S MY LINE! HOW COME YOU'RE STILL ALIVE?!

AAH-CHOO!
...AFTER I GOT ARRESTED, THEY PUT US BOTH IN THE SAME DORM AT THEIR SO-CALLED REHABILITATION FACILITY.
WHEN THE CITY COLLAPSED, A WALL FELL IN ON ME. I'D HAVE DIED THERE...
...IF HE HADN'T DUG ME OUT.
'SPECIALLY WHEN WE'RE ALL AFTER THE SAME TARGET! YOU KNOW WHAT I'M SAYING, KANEDA?
WELL... WE HAD OUR TROUBLES WITH EACH OTHER IN THE PAST...
...BUT GUYS LIKE US SHOULD STICK TOGETHER.
TETSUO...?
YES!
I'D DO ANYTHING TO GET THAT GUY!

FOR WHAT HE DID TO MY FRIENDS... AND FOR MYSELF!

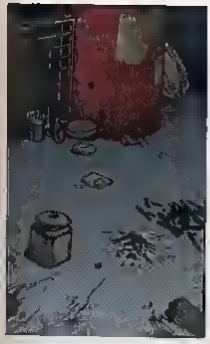
ALL RIGHT! I'M WITH YOU!
YEA--!


...CLOTHES...?

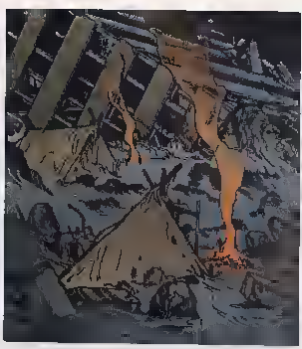
BUT FIRST...

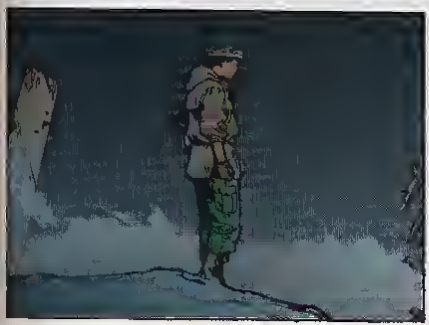
YOU WANT SOME CLOTHES, RIGHT?
WHAT?

.....
WHAT DID I TELL YOU?



We've gone to find Chipo
Kay





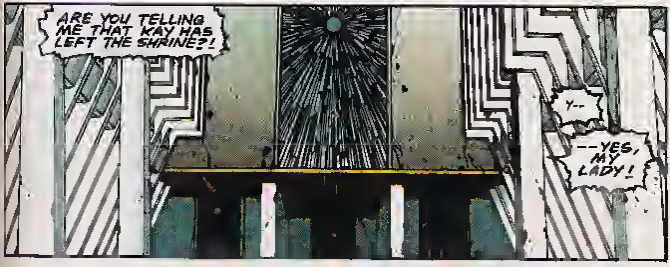
WELL... LET'S BE OFF.
COLONEL...
AS YOU KNOW, I'M IN NO SHAPE TO PROTECT ANYONE, IF WE RUN INTO TROUBLE...
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME.
...YOU'LL HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF.

ROCKET GUNS AND TRENCH MORTARS... THAT MEANS A FULL-SCALE WAR
NO... NO IT JUST MEANS ME
IT WAS THE EMPIRE BROUGHT OUT EVERY WEAPON IN THEIR ARMORY
MAYBE THIS ONE...
HOW DOES TETSUO FIT INTO ALL THIS?
YOU SAID HE HAD NO CONNECTION WITH THAT ARMY?
LAST I HEARD, HE'D BEEN DOING A LOT OF DRUGS, WHEN I SAW HIM, HE WAS TOTALLY STRUNG OUT.
FLIP
FLOP
HUNH?
SOUNDS LIKE HE'S FORGOTTEN THAT A HEAD BELONGS ON TO OF A BODY.
ZZIP
CHECK IT OUT! THIS JUMPSUIT FITS LIKE IT WAS MADE FOR ME!
I'LL TAKE IT!

LET YOU HAVE IT AT A DISCOUNT...
...SAY... $1,000.00.
WHAT?! SINCE WHEN ARE YOU SUCH A CAPITALIST PIG?
PAD
YOU WERE A REAL MAN, LEADER OF THE CLOWN GANG!
AND YOU'VE LET YOURSELF BECOME A MONEY-GRUBBING HABERDASHER! WHAT A DISGRACE!
WHAT DYOU MEAN, I CAN'T HAVE THE BOOTS!
IF YOU HAD ANY HONOR LEFT, YOU'D GIVE ME THE ENTIRE OUTFIT!
YOU CAN HAVE THE BOOTS WHEN THE COVER-ALL'S PAID FOR.
KANEDA!
C'MERE.
HUNH?
WHAT'S ALL THIS?
ISN'T IT GREAT?

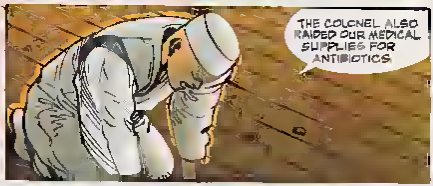
DO THESE THINGS RUN?
JUST GAS 'EM UP.
LOOK AT THIS ONE. IT'S GOT DOUBLE ITS ORIGINAL HORSE-POWER.
.....
WOW!
I CANNIBALIZED JUNKERS TO PUT THEM TOGETHER.... ONE OF 'EM'S GOT PARTS FROM TWENTY DIFFERENT BIKES.
IT'S A WORK OF ART.
IF YOU THINK THAT'S HOT, WAIT 'LL YOU SEE WHAT'S BEHIND THE CURTAIN.

GASP!
FLIP
A FLYING PLATFORM!
WHERE DID YOU GET IT?!
I HEARD IT'S A TOP-SECRET MILITARY TOOL.
KAI FOUND IT UNDERGROUND.
IT WAS NOTHING.
IT'S ALL COBBLED TOGETHER FROM MACHINE PARTS AND CERAMICS
I NEVER FIGURED HIM FOR SUCH AN ACE MECHANIC
HE WASN'T WORKING ALONE
TOOK SCRAP FROM THREE OF THEM TO PUT THIS ONE TOGETHER, AND IT'S STILL NOT COMPLETE.

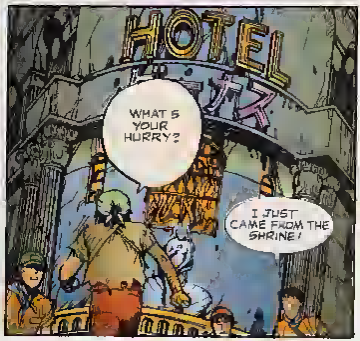

ARE YOU TELLING ME THAT KAY HAS LEFT THE SHRINE?!
Y--
--YES, MY LADY!

APPARENTLY, SHE WENT OUT BEFORE DAWN, ACCOMPANIED BY THE COLONEL.

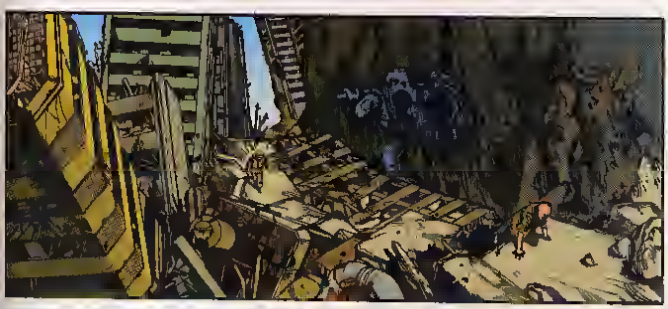
FOOLISH! ACTING ONLY FOR HERSELF...FAILING TO SEE SHE YIELDS TO US!


THE COLONEL ALSO RAIDED OUR MEDICAL SUPPLIES FOR ANTIBIOTICS.

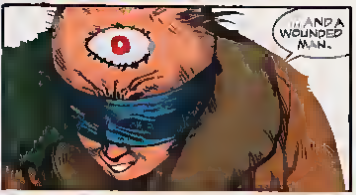
ENOUGH! BRING THEM BACK AT ONCE!
YES, MA'AM!

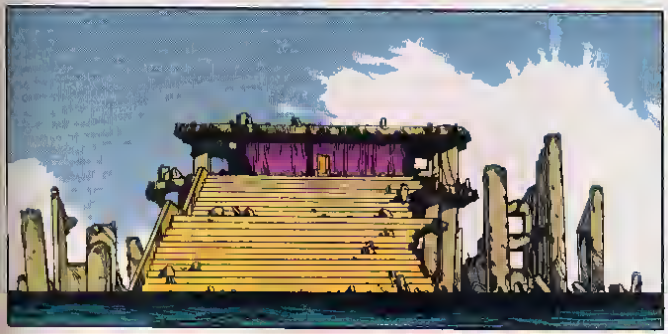

HOTEL
WHAT'S YOUR HURRY?
I JUST CAME FROM THE SHRINE!

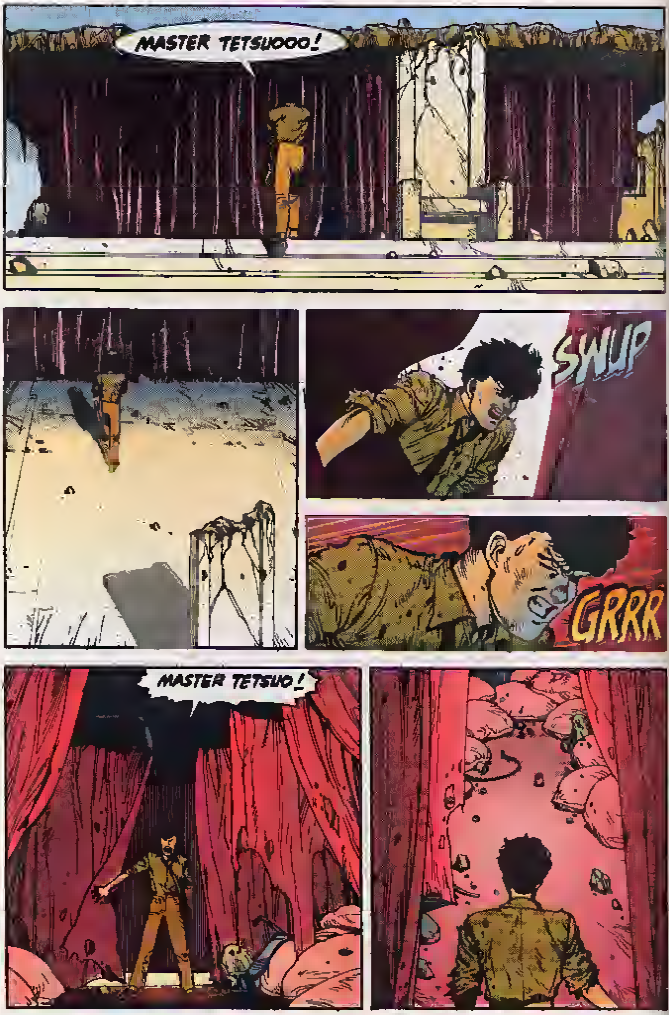
WHAT DO YOU MEAN--
--MIYAKO WANTS ME?!
HER MEN ARE LOOKING ALL OVER THE PLACE.
HOW COME?
I DON'T KNOW. IT'S GOT SOMETHING TO DO WITH A GIRL NAMED KAY WHO TOOK OFF, OR DISAPPEARED.
...KAY...?
WHAT'S WRONG?
NOTHING



I SEE A WOMAN...


...AND A WOUNDED MAN.




MASTER TETSUOOO!
SWUP
GRRR
MASTER TETSUO!

OH!
WHERE IS MASTER TETSUO? AND WHERE HAS LORD AKIRA GOTTEN TO?
I DON'T KNOW. THEY WERE TOGETHER... AND THEN THEY SUDDENLY VANISHED!
YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE FOR KNOWING THEIR WHEREABOUTS AT ALL TIMES!
KRAK
HUNH?
RRUMBLE

NEXT ISSUE: **VISION UNDERGROUND**

AKIRA: the movie AN UPDATE

The English-language version of the animated film **AKIRA** will play in the following cities during the months of September and October

BROOKLINE, MA (BOSTON AREA)
COOLIDGE CORNER THEATER
September 3—open ended

KEENE, NH
PUTNAM SCREENING ROOM
September 7—September 9

BALTIMORE, MD
BALTIMORE FILM FORUM, BALTIMORE MUSEUM OF ART
September 13—14

WICHITA, KS
MALL THEATER
September 15 only

WATERVILLE, ME
RAILROAD SQUARE CINEMA
September 14—20

NORTHHAMPTON, MA
PLEASANT STREET THEATER
September 19—25

MONTGOMERY, AL
CAPRI THEATER
September 21—27

ANN ARBOR, MI.
MICHIGAN THEATER
September 28—30

INDIANAPOLIS, IN
IRVING THEATER
September 28—October 4

LONDON, ENGLAND
SCALA CINEMA
September 22 only

NEW YORK, NY
THE NEW YORK FILM FORUM
October 19—November 1

Also in October, **AKIRA** is opening in **Toronto** at the **Paradise Theater** and in **Ottawa** at the **Bytowne Theater**

KATSUHIRO OTOMO
writer/illustrator

YASUMITSU SUETAKE
chief assistant to Mr. Otomo

MAKOTO SHIOSAKI
SATOSHI TAKABATAKE
assistants to Mr. Otomo

HIROSHI HIRATA
designer • AKIRA calligraphy

AKIRA SAITO
designer • Kodansha edition

Kodansha Ltd.

YOKO UMEZAWA
translation

KOICHI YURI
HISATAKA NISHITANI
editor • Kodansha edition

YUKA ANDO
editorial coordinator • Tokyo

NORIYUKI OKAZAKI
managing editor • New York

Epic Comics

JO DUFFY
English adaptation

STEVE OLIFF
with the
OLYOPTICS COMPUTER CREW
colorists

MICHAEL HIGGINS
letterer

STEVE ALEXANDROV
production

MARIE JAVINS
assistant editor

MARGARET CLARK
editor

CARL POTTS
executive editor

The Thieve's Quarter of Neo-Tokyo becomes the backdrop for Kaneda to forge new unions with old friends and old enemies The cold light of an early dawn sets the stage for an uneasy alliance between Kay and the Colonel And the mighty war machines of the superpowers are the setting for a meeting of the worlds most brilliant minds men and women united in a desperate effort to understand the mystery and power of Akira while a world still remains in which to understand anything at all

KATSUHIRO OTOMO'S

AKIRA

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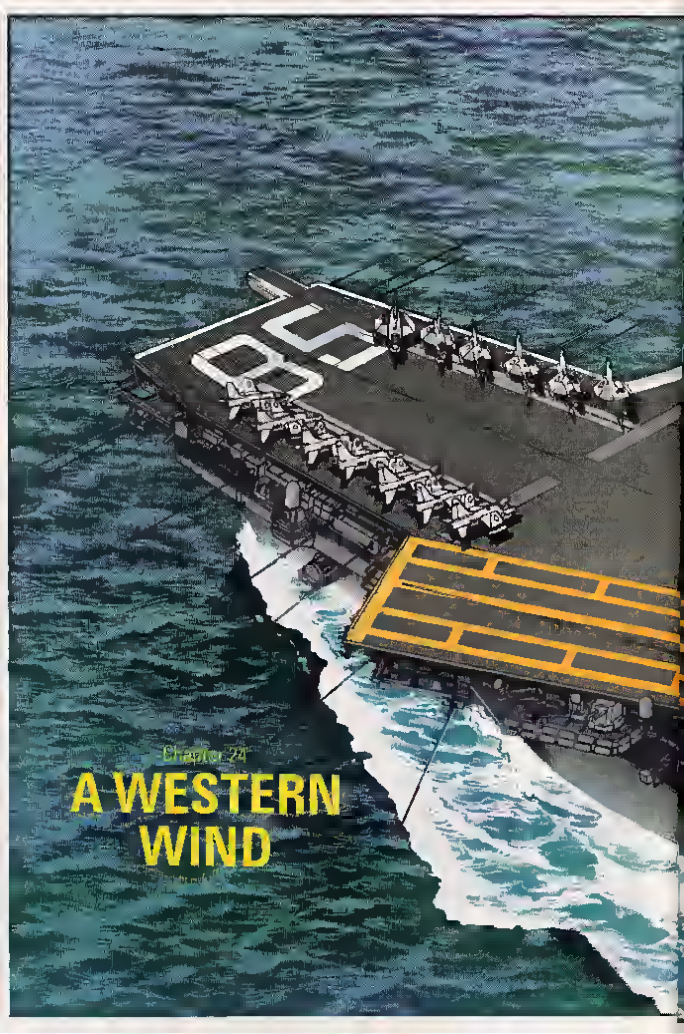
I love um

I buy um

I preserve um



Chapter 24

A WESTERN WIND

85